

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is in reply to an Office Action mailed on February 24, 2004. The above-mentioned patent application, filed on December 12, 2000, presents Claims 1 through 26, inclusive. The Examiner has lodged a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, stating the patent application presents the following distinct inventions:

Group I, which presents Claims 1-12 drawn to an apparatus for heating, classified in class 422, subclass 196;

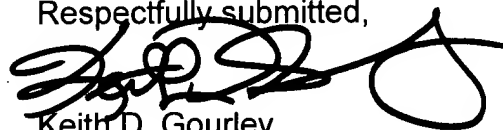
Group II, which presents Claims 13-20 drawn to a method, classified in class 48, subclass 61; and

Group III, which presents Claims 21-26, drawn to a burner, classified in class 431.

Applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the invention according to Group III (Claims 21-26) in the present patent application. Therefore, Claims 1-20, inclusive, have been withdrawn pursuant to this restriction requirement. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the invention of Group I (Claims 1-12) and the invention of Group II (Claims 13, 20) in one or more separate patent applications.

Applicants acknowledge their obligation under 37 CFR 1.48(b) to review inventorship of the pending patent application in view of cancellation of the Claims to the non-elected inventions. No amendment of inventorship is required due to cancellation of the Claims of Groups I and II, drawn to the non-elected inventions. Believing the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants solicit an action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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